

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The above amendments are made to place the claims in a more traditional format.

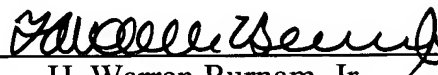
The specification has been amended to include a cross-reference to the parent applications and to include the published Abstract.

An early and favorable action on the merits of the claimed invention is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By:



H. Warren Burnam, Jr.

Reg. No. 29,366

HWB:lsh
1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor
Arlington, VA 22201-4714
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100